

REMARKS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5-18, 20-25, 27-30 are pending. Claims 1, 14, 18 are amended. Claims 2, 4 and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 27-30 are new. The remaining claims are unchanged.

In the September 8th Office Action, the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Agraharam et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,987,508 (“Agraharam”) and Herzog et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,425,003 (“Herzog”).

Applicant’s attorney wishes to thank Examiners Wiley and Delgado for considering new claim 27 before the filing of this Response. The Examiners indicated that new claim 27 is patentable over the cited art of record.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14 and 18 to recite similar features as new claim 27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 14 and 18 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons as new claim 27.

The remaining dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they are based.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

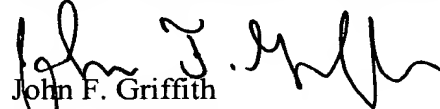
CONCLUSION

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant's attorney can be reached at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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